

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00088 181656Z

44

ACTION EA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CONCLUDED

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD PASS AMBASSADOR BUSH

1. ON EVENING OF JANUARY 18 PRC ANNOUNCED THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HELD IN PEKING JANUARY 13-17. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, PRELIMINARY MEETINGS WERE HELD JANUARY 5-11. 2,864 DELEGATES ATTENDED NPC AND APPROVED NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION, REPORT OF WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND MEMBERSHIP LISTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND STATE COUNCIL. CHU TEH WAS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF NPC WHILE PEKING MRC CHAIRMAN WU TEH WAS ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. STATE COUNCIL - CHOU EN-LAI DELIVERED THE REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT AND WAS RE-ELECTED PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL,

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00088 181656Z

ENDING SPECULATION (INCLUDING OUR OWN) THAT HE MIGHT STEP DOWN

IN FAVOR OF TENG HSIAO-PING. IN KEEPING WITH HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED STATUS AS A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY, TENG NOW APPEARS TO BE FIRST AMONG A CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED TWELVE MEMBER TEAM OF VICE PREMIERS. OTHER VICE PREMIERS INCLUDE CHANG CHAN-CHIAO, LI HSIEN-NIEN, CHEN HSI-LIEN, CHI TENG-KUEI, HUA KUO-FENG, CHEN YENG-KUEI, WU KUEI-HSIEN, WANG CHEN, YU CHIN-LI, KU MU AND SUN CHIAN. CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, WHO ALSO DELIVERED THE REPORT ON THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION, APPEARS TO RANK SECOND AFTER TENG HSIAO-PING AND IS NOW CLEARLY A MAJOR FIGURE IN THE STATE COUNCIL APPARATUS. YEH CHIEN-YING, WHO HAS LONG BEEN A MAJOR FIGURE IN DEFENSE MATTERS, WAS NAMED MINISTER OF DEFENSE ENDING RUMORS THAT A YOUNGER PARTY FIGURE SUCH AS WANG HUNG-WEN MIGHT ASSUME THIS ROLE. HUA KUO-NG, LONG ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, WAS NAMED MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY SUGGESTING THAT HE IS A MAN TO BE WATCHED.

3. COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED AT 2000 HOURS PEKING TIME AND CITY HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN GETTING READY FOR SOME IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ALL DAY. ALL THE LIGHTS AT TIEN AN MEN SQUARE AND ON MAJOR BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN TURNED ON, AND THERE IS THE SOUND OF OCCASIONAL FIREWORKS, BUT NONE OF THE ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH GREETED THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS HAVE THUS FAR MATERIALIZED. ON A CHILLY WINTER'S EVENING, THOSE PEKING RESIDENTS ON STREET SEEM MORE INTENT ON GETTING HOME THAN CELEBRATING THE VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

4. COMMENT: ON A VERY RAPID FIRST READING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS THUS FAR RELEASED, THE HIGHLISTS APPEAR TO BE (1) THE RETENTION OF CHOU EN-LAI AS PREMIER DESPITE HIS APPARENT FAILING HEALTH; (2) A NOTABLE ABSENCE OF PROMINENT MENTION OF CHAIRMAN MAO; (3) CONFIRMATION OF THE RISE OF TENG HSIAOUIPING AND A MAJOR STATE COUNCIL ROLE FOR CHANG CHUN-CHIAO; (4) AN ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE CABINET PUBLICLY NAMED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER TEN YEARS; AND (5) WHAT APPEARS TO BE A HOLDING POSITION ON THE MILITARY SIDE. WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT WORK REPORT AS THEY ARE RELEASED.
HOLDRIDG
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